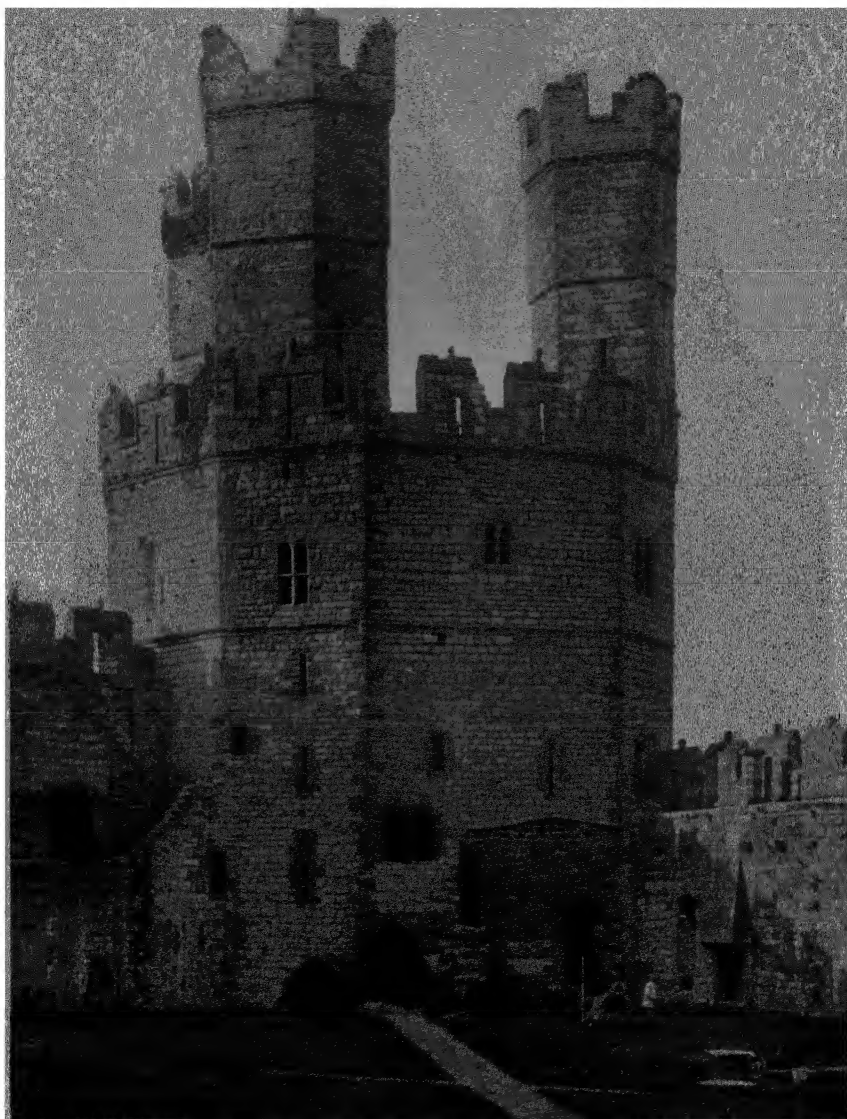


728.81 P37

Kansas City
Public Library



This volume is for
REFERENCE USE ONLY



THE EAGLE TOWER.

CARNARVON CASTLE

BY C. R. PEERS, C.B.E., DIR. S.A.

CHIEF INSPECTOR OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS

LONDON :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY

HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1927

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	5
HISTORY OF THE CASTLE	8
DESCRIPTION	14

4/27 (26567) (28637) Wt.11935/880/708 10,000 9/27 Harrow G.45

KANSAS CITY, MO. PUBLIC LIBRARY



0 00001 011351 5

CARNARVON CASTLE

INTRODUCTION

THE royal boroughs of North Wales were an adaptation of the system of "bastides" practised in France, and were founded to serve as centres of English influence, political and commercial as well as military. They were originally designed to be inhabited only by English settlers, attracted thither by the privileges granted to the burgesses of these "free boroughs." Castles were built for the protection of the settlers, who in their turn helped to make possible the provisioning of the castles. The boroughs of North Wales were Carnarvon, Conway, Criccieth, Harlech, Bere, Beaumaris, Newborough, Bala, Nevin, and Pwllheli; the dates of their foundation charters being: Carnarvon and Conway 1284, Criccieth, Harlech, and Bere 1285, Beaumaris 1295, Newborough 1303, Bala 1324, Nevin and Pwllheli 1355. The first six of these had castles attached to them, and the constable of the castle was *ex officio* mayor of the borough. With the exception of Bere, which does not seem to have survived the rebellion of 1294, all these castles remain in more or less good condition, and of the three towns which were walled, Carnarvon, Conway, and Beaumaris, the first two preserve their walls nearly complete.

Edward I, in accordance with his policy of reconciling the Welsh to his rule, took care, as far as possible, not to interfere with the hereditary lands of the old "tribes" or family groups, but chose for the sites of his castles and boroughs the lands of the "maenors" of the Welsh princes, or the demesne lands of the commotes. Hence it sometimes happened, as at Criccieth, Carnarvon, and perhaps Harlech, that the sites of the old Welsh and new English buildings were the same.

The building of the town walls and castles was pushed on with great energy for the first few years after 1283, and Conway,

Harlech, and Criccieth successfully withstood the attacks of the Welsh in the revolt of Madoc ap Llewelyn in 1294. Carnarvon, however, was not equal to the ordeal, and was taken and burnt, and Bere also, with this difference, that whereas Carnarvon was repaired and strengthened, Bere disappears from history after 1295, and its very site was for a time a matter of dispute. Its scanty remains, however, now known as Caerberllan Castle, are to be seen on the western flank of Cader Idris, in the parish of Llanfihangel-y-Pennant. In the somewhat obscure rising of Sir Gruffydd Llwyd of Trefgarnedd, about 1322, the castles evidently held their own, and they were not in any great danger till the end of the century, when the most serious of all the Welsh uprisings, the national revolt led by Owen Glyndwr, took place. It seems to have begun late in 1400, and in the spring of 1401 Conway Castle was taken by surprise. It was recaptured by Henry Percy, Hotspur, in July, and in November Glyndwr attacked Carnarvon, but without success. In 1402 the whole of North Wales except the castellated towns was in Glyndwr's hands, and the castles were more or less in a state of siege all through this year and the next. In November 1403 and again in January 1404 Carnarvon was attacked and, owing to the smallness of its garrison, very nearly taken. The Constable of Harlech, William Hunt, was captured early in 1404, and shortly afterwards this castle surrendered, and for the next three years became Owen's head-quarters. It was at last re-taken by Gilbert and John Talbot in 1407.

North Wales was a Lancastrian stronghold in the Wars of the Roses, and Harlech Castle had the distinction of holding out for the lost cause of the Red Rose long after all other opposition had ceased. It finally capitulated in 1468.

The last stage in the history of the castles was begun in 1485, when Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, became King Henry VII. The gradual growth of Welsh feeling in the boroughs had resulted in the practical absorption of the English settlements, till by the end of the fifteenth century only the three walled towns of Carnarvon, Conway, and Beaumaris remained definitely English. Henry's Charter of 1507 to the Welsh, which threw all the boroughs open to them, was received with the strongest protests by these towns, and was accordingly modified, but the time when the differences between English and Welsh could be regulated by castles and walls had gone by. An adequate judicial system was the thing needed, and the question was finally solved by the Act of Union in 1536, by which the laws

of England became also those of Wales. The only function thereafter left to the castles, was that of providing gaols for felons and debtors, and though in the troubles of the Civil War they once more served a military purpose, their day was over, and with the abandonment of their use as gaols they became the uninhabited ruins which they still are at the present day.

HISTORY OF THE CASTLE

THE site of the town of Carnarvon has such obvious advantages that its early occupation is on all grounds probable. It commands the entrance to the Menai Straits, and in the mouth of the river Saint possesses a harbour amply sufficient for the small craft of early days ; at the same time it is on the line of the coast road which skirts the great tract of mountainous country which lies between the vale of Clwyd and the Irish Channel. The Romans recognized this, as the remains of their settlement of Segontium bear witness to this day, and during the Norman invasion of North Wales at the end of the eleventh century Hugh of Avranches, Earl of Chester, made a castle, among other places, at Carnarvon ; the date of this must fall between 1088 and 1098. After the fashion of the day, this castle would have consisted of an earthen mound (called a motte) with a courtyard enclosed by a bank and ditch and defended by wooden palisades. The Norman occupation of the district practically ceased by the end of the eleventh century. It appears that the Welsh princes had a palace in Carnarvon, at any rate from the time of Llewelyn the Great, and it is very likely that this palace stood on the site of the Norman earthwork, as the present castle almost certainly does. The campaign of Edward I, which resulted in the building of the town walls and castle of Carnarvon, need only be referred to here as far as it fixes the dates when they were begun. In August 1282 Anglesey was occupied, a bridge of boats being thrown across the Menai Straits. In March 1283 Edward advanced to Conway, and made it his head-quarters for the rest of the war. In the same month Otto de Grandison and John de Vescy began the march along the coast to Bangor, Carnarvon, and Harlech, keeping up communications by sea.

Prince David was captured in June 1283, and the settlement of the district was marked by the establishment of Carnarvon as a free borough in September of the next year. It is unlikely that much in the nature of permanent building would be done before this date, and the documentary evidence confirms this view. There is fortunately a good deal of material in the Public

Records from which the history of the castle and town walls can be drawn, as from the Pipe Rolls, the King's Remembrancer Accounts, the Exchequer Accounts, and the Ministers' Accounts. The earliest document is the Pipe Roll for 1286, which records the expenses at Carnarvon from 13 January 1283 to 7 January 1286. In this, however, no entry is specifically dated before 21 August 1284, and this deals with wages of carpenters working on the quay between that date and 4 March 1285. At the same time ditchers were working in the ditch round the castle. A castle therefore existed at this time, but that it was not the present masonry building is clear from the fact that only one entry at the end of the Roll, and therefore dating from 1285 or not earlier, refers to any work at the castle itself, and this is only an item of £6 3s. 4d. spent on boards, shingles, nails, and glass windows. On the other hand, £1,574 11s. 1½d. is spent on the town walls from 9 October 1284 to 18 November 1285. It is evident, therefore, that the building of the town walls was the first defensive work in masonry. The Pipe Roll for 1290, containing the Carnarvon accounts from October 1285 to October 1290, completes the history of this period. Nothing more is said of the town walls, which were probably finished, but in the five years accounted for £3,428 13s. 3d. was spent on building work at the castle. The bulk of it, £1,672 10s. 6d. and £1,378 19s. 7d., was spent from October 1285 to September 1287, the totals for the other three years being only £156 8s. 4½d., £170 13s. 3½d., and £50 1s. 6d. The reason for this sudden fall in the yearly expenses is probably to be found in the action of John de Havering, constable of Carnarvon, and deputy-justiciar of North Wales, who in 1287 took a contingent of soldiers from Snowdonia and Merioneth to join the army raised to suppress the revolt of Rhys ap Iorwerth. With the soldiers he took 120 carpenters, masons, smiths and quarrymen. It cannot be doubted that many of these came from Carnarvon.

One point is already evident, namely, that the first Prince of Wales, Edward II, born 25 April 1284, could not have been born in the room now shown in the Eagle Tower, for the sufficient reason that the foundations of that tower were not then laid. If then, and there is no reason to reject the tradition, he was born in the castle of Carnarvon, it must have been in the old castle whose ditches were being cleared out in the end of 1284. It certainly had wooden buildings at the time, and as we know from various sources that the halls of Prince Llewelyn at Aberffraw, Conway and Ystumgwern were of wood, it is probable

that here too at Carnarvon, where a palace of the Welsh princes is known to have existed, was a timber-built dwelling on the site of the present castle, which up to 1283 had belonged to the last of the Welsh princes. That the same site was also that of the eleventh-century Norman castle there is good reason to believe, as will be shown later on.

The next stage in the castle's history begins in 1294. In that year Edward I, preparing an expedition to Gascony, made levies of men from England, Scotland and Wales. Rather than serve in foreign wars, the Welsh rose in revolt under Prince Madoc ap Llewelyn at the end of September, and in October took the town and castle of Carnarvon by assault. The sheriff Roger de Puleston was hanged, the English settlers massacred, and the town and castle burnt. The revolt was, however, put down in the spring of 1295, and in June the King gave orders for the repair of the damaged buildings. The justice of Chester was to send a hundred masons to Carnarvon without delay, to work under the direction of Edmund, the King's brother. The town walls were first taken in hand, and were completely repaired in two months, from 10 July to 10 September 1295, at a cost of £1,024 18s. 11½d. Certain minor repairs to the castle were carried out at the same time, but the important work was delayed till the walls were finished. From 11 September 1295 to 28 September 1300, £4,393 13s. 7½d. were spent on the castle, and a report on the state of the castle works, dated 25 February 1296, shows clearly what parts were then being built. It says that in the wall begun round the motte of Carnarvon four towers are begun, and that the wall contains 18 perches in length, that is to say, about 450 feet. The motte, or earthen mound, can be no other than that which within the memory of man existed in the upper end of the outer court of the castle, and the walls and towers built between 1295 and 1300 are those at this end of the castle. The motte was by Edward I's time quite obsolete as a work of defence, and must have formed part of the old castle, mentioned in the earlier accounts (1284); and its presence here is strongly in favour of the identity of the site with that of Hugh of Avranches' castle, of which such a motte would be the principal feature. It is, of course, possible that the mound may have been thrown up at a later time by one of the Welsh princes, and to this extent doubt must exist, but the probabilities are in favour of a Norman origin.

Turning now for a moment to the buildings as they exist to-day, it is possible by applying the documentary to the building

evidence to demonstrate the order of their construction. There are three breaks in the masonry, showing differences of date between adjacent parts. One is west of the North-east Tower, the masonry east of the break being the older ; a second is in the curtain between the Black and Chamberlain Towers, the work to the west being the older ; the third is east of the Eagle Tower, the work to the west being the older. The comparative dates are therefore : first work, from the Eagle Tower to a little east of the Chamberlain Tower ; second work, from the North-east Tower to the break east of the Chamberlain Tower ; third work, from the west of the North-east Tower to the east of the Eagle Tower. The building dates are : first work 1285-1291 ; second work 1295-1301 ; third work 1315-1322, the evidence for the last date being given below.

The reason for this order of building is not hard to see. When the fortification of Carnarvon was begun, the castle site was already protected to some extent by earthworks and doubtless by palisades, but the town site, which forms as it were an outer court to the castle, had no defences. Therefore, the building of town walls was the first thing to be done. The western part of the castle being less strongly defended than the eastern, where the motte stood, the next stage was to provide it with walls and towers from the south-west end of the town walls to a point at the south-west of the ditch enclosing the motte. This would be the state of the castle at the time of the revolt of 1294. and explains why it was taken by assault and burnt, only about a quarter of its circumference being then protected by masonry, while the rest had at best wooden palisades. After the revolt the completion of the line of walls and towers round the motte and up to the south-east end of the town wall was undertaken, and this being finished, it only remained to make the castle stronger against attacks from within the town by joining the Eagle Tower to the North-east Tower with a line of towers and curtains.

The need for the completion of the circuit of walls round town and castle was obvious, and from the Ministers' Accounts for 1303-4, it is clear that the repair of the towers damaged by the fire of 1294 was delayed till the defences round the motte were well advanced.

It seems probable that after this time the work was suspended, or at any rate greatly reduced, for lack of funds or some other reason, and the next period of building, 1315-1322, starts at a time when a threatened invasion of the Scots made it expedient

to have the royal castles in defensible condition. A good deal was done to the Eagle Tower in 1316-17, and in 1320-21, the great entrance gate, now called the King's Gate, was being built, with the hall above it which still exists in part.

Work seems to have stopped about 1322, and the troubles of Edward II's last years sufficiently account for this. The castle was left unfinished, and in spite of several later instalments of work, it so remained. In 1343 a survey records that the Well Tower, the hall over the great gate and a tower joined to it, the gate towards the Princes' garden, and five *camina* in the Eagle Tower, are left unfinished, and there was evidently no prospect that the work to either of the gates would be carried on, as the probable cost was not even estimated.

As a matter of fact there was a great deal more unfinished work in the castle at this time than is mentioned in the survey, namely, the ranges of buildings designed to be set against the curtains, whose traces are so conspicuous to-day. To build those in the outer court it would have been necessary to remove the motte, but, as will be seen, this was not done till within recent years.

In spite of this incompleteness, the defences of the castle were strong, and it successfully withstood the attacks of Owen Glyndwr and the French in 1401, 1403, and 1404. The garrison in 1403 consisted of 20 men-at-arms and 80 archers, under the command of the Constable, Sir John Bolde. In 1404 the garrison was only 28 strong, and the castle was very nearly taken by the besiegers. From this time, if not earlier, its use as a prison was well established, and there are records of the sending of French prisoners here in 1417 and 1422.

The next record of the condition of the castle dates from 1538, when it was reported as wholly unfurnished with means of defence, so that it could not be defended an hour. It was also "ferre in decaye for lakke of tymely reparacions," and although many small repairs were done during the reign of Henry VIII, it is evident that much of the castle was in a ruinous state. Another survey of 1595 has for its title, "A Survey or viewe of the ruinous decaye of the Castell of Carnarvon," etc., and shows that the prisons on either side of the great gate, although still used, were so ruinous that not only were the prisoners "in most miserable case," but they had also been able to escape, "so that some have gone unpunished, creditors have been defrauded, and divers gaolers utterly undone."

In 1609 Sir John Haryngton, the Constable, describes the castle as of "no use at all, but for the gaole of the County and that by usurpacion. The timber is all rotten, having not been repayred since Edward the fyrst his tyme that built yt. The walls are still exceeding good, and wold soone be made to serve for a garryson yf cawse (as God forbid) shold requyre."

A few years later (c. 1620) another survey tells us that only the Eagle Tower and the gatehouse were roofed and leaded, all else being more or less ruinous; the use of the prison, however, still continues, and in 1637 it held William Prynne, of "Histriomastix" fame, for a short time.

Sir John Haryngton's pious hopes were destined to be disappointed, and Carnarvon Castle had to play its part in the Civil Wars. It was at first held for the King, but Captain Swanley took it after a siege in 1644. The Royalists recovered it, and Lord Byron was appointed governor, but in 1646 it was surrendered for the second time, falling into the hands of Major-General Mytton. The Parliamentarians were in their turn besieged here by Sir John Owen in 1648, but he was defeated and driven off by Colonels Carter and Twisselton, and the siege was raised.

So ended the active history of the castle, but with the return of peace it was threatened with a greater disaster than war had ever brought upon it, for in 1660 the local gentry, "conceiving it to be for the great advantage of ourselves and posterity to have the castle of Carnarvon and the strengthes thereof demolished," entered into an undertaking to pull it down, provided that it could be done for not more than £500.

Fortunately this was not carried into effect, but for nearly two hundred years the buildings stood neglected. About 1840, however, considerable repairs were undertaken, and in 1870 the appointment of Mr. (afterwards Sir) Llewelyn Turner inaugurated the period of repair and preservation which happily still continues. The castle was freed from encroaching buildings, the moat on the north front cleared out, and much repair, unfortunately rather too thorough, done to the walls and towers. The new ashlar work, however, done during Sir Llewelyn's tenure of office, is in a brownish sandstone from Talacre, easily distinguishable from all other work in the castle. In 1908 the castle came into the charge of H.M. Office of Works, and repairs have been continuously carried on till the present day.

In 1911 the Investiture of the Prince of Wales was held in the castle, and occasioned the flooring and roofing of several towers, a process since continued with excellent results.

DESCRIPTION.

CARNARVON CASTLE is one of the finest (many would say the finest) of the Edwardian castles of Wales, and belongs to the great days of castle building, when the cross-bow was still the most effective long range weapon, and stone walls were proof against the heaviest artillery of the day.

Compared with its contemporaries in North Wales, it is irregular in plan, showing none of the symmetry which the military engineer of the time affected, as at Beaumaris and Rhuddlan or in a lesser degree at Harlech. Its plan is due to its site and to the fact that this site was already fortified before it was built. The system of fortification introduced by the Normans in the eleventh century, in which one or more irregularly shaped courts were attached to a principal stronghold, whether an earthen mound or a great stone tower, had given place to a system in which a ring of walls and towers, or more than one ring, formed the strength of the defence, being so arranged that every point along and in front of the walls and towers was commanded by the missiles of the garrison. The strength of the fortress was therefore no longer concentrated in one point, but distributed over its lines as each point required, and the Norman great tower or keep became obsolete. The natural advantages of the position of Carnarvon have already been noticed, and it remains to see by an examination of its buildings how they were turned to account by the military engineers of Edward I. The first master mason was Walter of Hereford, with Henry of Ellerton as his assistant, *Submagister*, and it is probably to these men that the design of the castle is due. Henry had succeeded Walter by 1315, as he is called master mason in that year. The stone came chiefly from Anglesey, the wrought and moulded dressings being in a coarse-grained sandstone from a quarry at Aberpwl, while the walling is of fine-grained limestone, both being of splendid quality and durability. The Aberpwl stone is not suited to elaborate detail, and for this reason, and from the nature of the case, the work throughout is plain and simple, a wave moulding or a plain chamfer being repeated without variation on arches and doorways. On the north front, towards the town, there are

windows with flowing tracery and transoms, but the only purely ornamental feature in the whole castle, if the stone heads on the battlements be excepted, is the canopied niche with Edward II's statue on the King's Gate. The bed moulding of the parapets of the slender stair turrets which surmount the towers is the most elaborate masonry detail, and the general effect of the buildings is one of great simplicity. The exterior of the Queen's Gate from the south-east, and the south front seen from across the river, are most impressive and dignified, and the irregular line of walls and towers is most satisfactorily brought into unity by the horizontal bands of ashlar which make the circuit of the castle from north-east to north-west.

The constructional details are equally simple. Stones long enough to serve as lintels were easily obtainable, and all the wall passages are covered in with lintels resting on corbel courses ; while the constant use of the corbelled lintel or " Carnarvon arch " in doorways and windows has gained for it that somewhat misleading name.

The castle stands on a ridge of shaly rock sloping westward to the water's edge, and overlaid by a moraine of closely compacted pebbles. This is an excellent foundation where not exposed to rain and frost, which soon break it up. The towers and curtains on the south and west were all founded on the moraine, but in course of time have been underpinned and carried down to the rock ; a long section of the curtain was thus treated in 1911, when the underlying rock was everywhere exposed.

The main entrance to the castle is by the great gate, called in modern times the King's Gate, in the middle of the north front. It is approached by a modern stone bridge which takes the place of the original drawbridge over a deep moat, now more than half filled up by the street known as Castle Ditch. The pit of the drawbridge is also filled in, but the sockets in which the pivots of the bridge worked can still be seen.

The gatehouse has a central passage flanked by octagonal towers of two stories with a basement. On the north front the towers project as half octagons, having between them a tall arch of four moulded orders, dying on to the splay of their sides. Above the arch is a tall, canopied niche containing a half figure of Edward II, made in 1321 ; its head was originally protected, as the building accounts show, by spikes to prevent the birds from sitting on it. Beneath the arch and set back from it, is the outer arch of the gateway passage, and over it a two-light

traceries window lighting a chapel above the entry. In the top story of the gatehouse are three similar windows, lighting a large hall, and the rooms in the towers beneath the hall have three others, looking north-east and north-west.

The ground floor rooms in the towers doubtless served as guardrooms, but at any rate, in the later years of the castle's history the towers were used as prisons, one being for felons and the other for debtors. The gatehouse passage was defended at either end by portcullises, and has a pointed barrel vault carried on stone ribs and pierced by "murder holes" through which missiles of various kinds could be hurled on the heads of assailants. A number of arrow slits from the flanking towers also command the passage. The passage widens inwards, and in consequence the crown of the vault rises from north to south. Above the passage is a chapel standing north and south with a stepped floor following the rise in the passage roof, and lighted at the north end by a two-light window. Both portcullis grates were drawn up into the chapel, as at Harlech, when not in use. The whole of the second floor of the gatehouse was occupied by a large hall, of which only the north and parts of the east and west walls are standing. This is the new hall mentioned in the building accounts for 1320-22, and described as unfinished in 1343, and it is clear that it never was completed. It is lighted on the north by two-light windows with tracery and transoms; between these in the middle of the north wall are two narrow slits, each contrived for use by three bowmen at once. Between the arrow slits is a shaft in which the upper end of the chain for raising and lowering the portcullis was secured. The hall was some 60 ft. long from east to west by 25 ft. wide, with canted angles at both ends, and had at the east end a stair corbelled out from the wall, leading perhaps to a gallery. The roof was in six bays, as the corbels show. A two-story block of building adjoining to the south side of the west tower of the gatehouse contained the stair to the hall, but was itself never finished, and is perhaps the "tower joined to the gate" mentioned in 1343, and the Prison Tower of later days. The gatehouse passage overlapped its east wall, as the springers of stone ribs show, and its south wall formed one side of a vaulted passage with a portcullis at each end, which is probably the "Black Alley" mentioned in the accounts for 1534. The south-east angle is canted off, and retains the wall rib of a vault: it is possible that this was designed to form one side of an octagonal vaulted chamber, opening from the gatehouse passage, after the manner

of the gatehouse of Denbigh Castle. There are, however, no remains of buildings on the east side of the gateway passage at this point, though preparations for them are to be seen.

It will be seen that the gatehouse forms a complete dwelling-house, with hall, chapel, and living rooms, as at Harlech; probably in both cases the Constable's official residence was intended to be in the gatehouse.

The castle was divided into an inner and an outer court by a range of building connecting the Chamberlain Tower with the gatehouse, but of this only slight foundations remain. The outer court is entered from the gateway passage, but access to the inner court was only to be had through the Black Alley, defended at both ends by a portcullis, and a door opening to the same court from the "tower joined to the gate" is also defended in this manner. The inner court contained the great hall, kitchens, and principal living rooms, the outer had the quarters for the garrison, the stables, and houses of office generally. Its upper or eastern end was taken up by the earthen motte mentioned in 1296, which was only removed in the nineteenth century.

The plan of the castle is somewhat like a figure of eight, and in each court there are three principal towers, the Eagle, Queen's, and Well Towers in the inner court, the Granary, North-east and Black Towers in the outer court.

At the east end of the latter court is the Queen's Gate with its two flanking towers, and on either side smaller towers on the wall, the Watch and Cistern Towers, while on the dividing line between the two courts, opposite the King's Gate, is the Chamberlain Tower.

The names of these towers are modern and unhistorical, only the Eagle and Well Towers preserving their original names. It is possible on the evidence of the surveys and accounts to assign to some of the other towers their mediaeval names, but these names were changed from time to time, and although the Eagle Tower never had another name, the same cannot be said of any other in the castle. For example, of the eight names occurring in a survey of 1595, only one, that of the Eagle Tower, reappears in a survey of *c.* 1620.

The towers have certain general resemblances to each other. All have newel stairs rising above the roofs in slender turrets; all have fireplaces on each floor, those in the principal rooms have projecting stone hoods, while the rest have keyed lintels flush with the wall; and all have garderobe chambers on each floor, with shafts discharging on the outside of the castle walls.

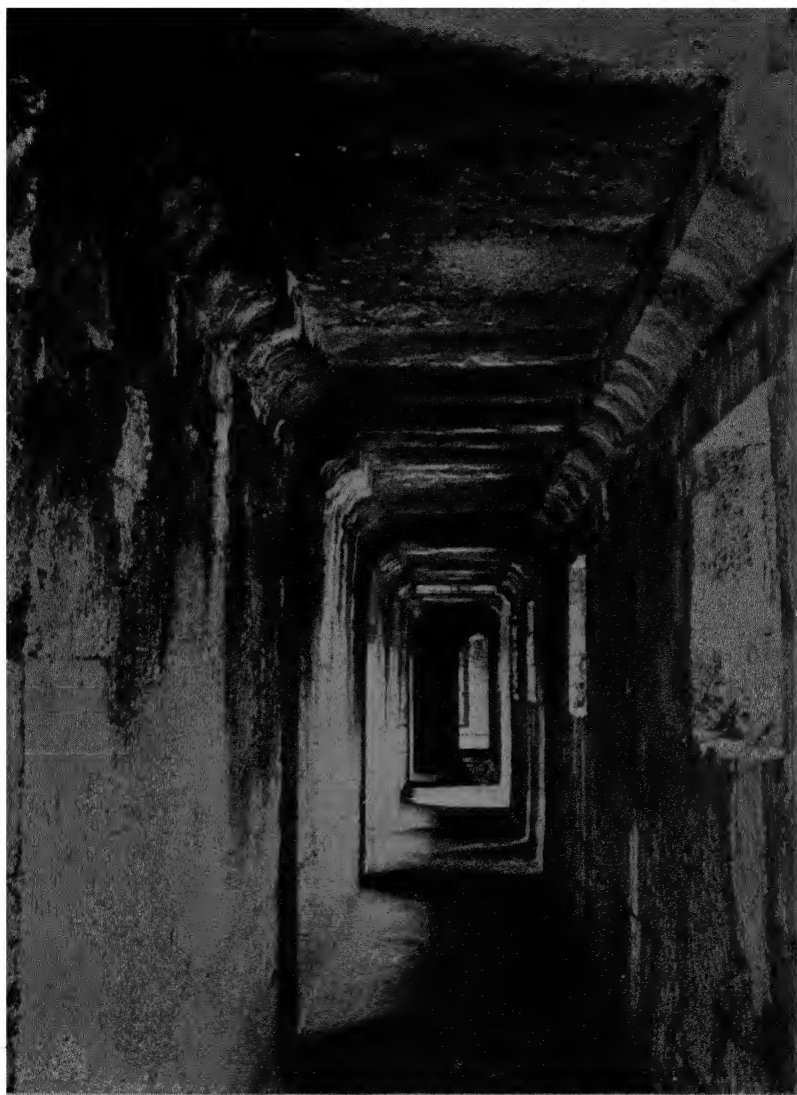
Three towers, the Eagle, Queen's, and Black, are ten-sided ; the rest are octagonal, except those in the Queen's Gate, which are irregular hexagons.

The curtain walls joining the towers are of two kinds : those on the north, towards the town, are from 8 to 10 ft. thick, and formed the outer walls of large chambers built against them ; while those on the other sides of the castle contain wall passages in their thickness and range from 11 to 16 ft. These wall passages are carried round the outer faces of the towers, and are one of the most interesting features of the castle, being so arranged as to allow concentration at any point with the least loss of time. The character of the arrow slits in the curtains is different in the two types of walls ; in the wall passages there are large embrasures with single tall and narrow openings outwards, but in the curtains of the outer court towards the town the openings are shorter and broader, and so arranged that three bowmen can shoot from three positions through one loophole, or conversely that one man can shoot through any one of three loopholes from one position. As an attack in force could only be made from the north, the reason for this device is obvious.

There are five entrances to the castle, two principal and three subordinate. The King's Gate on the north and the Queen's Gate at the south-east are the principal entrances, though the latter was already disused in the sixteenth century, and has been made inaccessible by the cutting away of the ground outside it. The three subordinate entrances, or posterns, are in the basement of the Well Tower, opening only to the castle ditch ; in the basement of the Eagle Tower, opening to the quay, and in the curtain south of the hall, opening to the river harbour. A peculiarity of the castle is that there is no principal chapel, after the usual fashion, but chapels are attached to the Queen's, Chamberlain, and Black Towers ; another is over the entrance to the King's Gate, and there is a small chapel or oratory in the Eagle Tower.

In visiting the various buildings of the castle, it will be well to begin with the inner court, starting from the east end. Standing on the line of the west doorway of the Black Alley, the site of the Great Hall is seen on the left, between the Chamberlain and Queen's Towers, and on the right the remains of the kitchen, brewhouse, bakehouse, etc.

The GREAT HALL was built before 1294, as its gable was being repaired in stone immediately after the suppression of the revolt of that year. It is so much ruined that little can be said



WALL PASSAGE BETWEEN CHAMBERLAIN TOWER
AND BLACK TOWER

about it. Its internal dimensions were 100 ft. by 44 ft. The daïs must have been at the west end and the screens at the east. There is no sign of a fireplace, and the reference to "paving a chimney" in the great hall in Henry VIII's time seems to show that even to the last there was a hearth in the middle of the hall, which was no doubt the original arrangement. The hall must have been lighted from the north by a range of windows, and had an open timbered roof, the corbels for which remain in its south wall. Above them is a line of two-light openings from a wall passage which would have commanded a view of the interior of the hall; an upper row lighting the upper wall passage are modern, but probably represent an old arrangement. At the east end of the hall a flight of steps runs down below the floor level to a postern doorway in the south curtain opening to the modern slate quay; it is evident from the accounts that there was a wooden quay here in the thirteenth century, and the postern would have made a convenient entrance for stores.

The KITCHEN, BREWHOUSE, and other offices formed a block of building between the gatehouse and the Well Tower. As in the case of the hall, the only remaining parts are those which adjoin the curtain wall and the towers. At the west end are the seatings for two metal cauldrons with fireplaces beneath them, and a wall chamber behind which may have been used for smoking meat. A floor drain which runs to a shaft in the Well Tower is close to the cauldrons. A stone water channel here, and another running along the north wall, were supplied from a tank in the Well Tower; they were originally lined with lead, and that in the north wall leads to a stone trough in a recess, from which the kitchen drew its supplies of water. Near by is the bonding of a cross wall, and also the springer of a moulded arch, but there are no remains of fireplaces. A wall passage to the east of this leads to a garderobe in the north wall of the west tower of the gatehouse.

It is probable that the buttery and pantry were at the east of the hall, as in 1542, a pavement was made between the castle gate and the buttery. A new buttery with a chamber over it is mentioned in 1530. There was a covered way between the hall and the kitchen.

The WELL TOWER, west of the kitchen, was built between 1315 and 1320, but not finished till after 1343. In 1534 it is called the Bell Tower, and is perhaps identical with the Treasury Tower of 1595, in which the records had at one time been kept, and with the Record Tower of c. 1620. It is certainly

"le Welletour" of 1343. It has a basement, reached by a steep flight of steps from the court, and opening by a doorway, defended by a portcullis and two "murder holes," to the moat. The basement has no fireplace, and is lighted only by two narrow slits at east and west. The staircase, beginning at the ground floor level, is at the north-east, and the garderobes serving the various floors at the north-west.

The ground floor has a fireplace with keyed lintels on the north, and it is chiefly lighted from the west, where a two-light window exists, a passage from its jambs leading down into a wall chamber, from which the portcullis of the postern doorway was worked. The well is contained in a projection on the east of the tower, and is 45 ft. deep from the level of the well chamber on the ground floor. It is sunk 6 ft. into the shaly rock, and has usually some feet of excellent water in it. The water when drawn could be poured into a stone trough from which pipes led to the kitchen. There are several windows in the shaft below the ground floor level, and above the well chamber the walls are gradually gathered over, till they meet on the first floor, where an upper well-chamber exists, opening to another chamber with a fireplace at its south end, which was probably a small kitchen. The wall walk leading westwards opens on to the first floor room of the tower, which has a fine hooded fireplace, a two-light window towards the court, and two single lights on the north side, but the eastern wall walk, above the kitchens, enters at the second floor, and running round the south side of the tower, was designed to continue at this level to the Eagle Tower. The curtain, however, at this point has never risen above first floor level. The second floor fireplace has a hood of red sandstone, differing from any other in the castle, and dating from about 1343, when a stone arch spanning the tower, the springer of which remains near by, was also built.

Between the Well Tower and the Eagle Tower are traces of a range of rooms, one story in height, built against the curtain; their south wall however, except for a short length joining the Eagle Tower, has entirely disappeared, or may possibly have never been built. There is a basement at the end next the Eagle Tower, entered from the basement of that tower, and lighted by a single window on the north; the fireplace of the room over the basement is a modern restoration. The walk on the top of the curtain wall is at a lower level than anywhere else in the castle, but corresponds in height to that on the town wall; it now enters the Eagle Tower through a two-light window,

altered to a doorway for the purpose, but was originally meant to be carried round the east face of the tower, partly on the roof of the range of rooms, and partly on corbels which still remain in the tower wall.

The EAGLE TOWER is the finest of all the towers, and is part of the work of 1285-1294. In 1300 it is called the Great Tower, and its foundations were damaged by the sea in that year. It is first called the Eagle Tower in 1316, and it is evident that a great deal of work was done to it at this time. The roof was being leaded in 1316-1317, when the tower is described as having been made anew. A stone figure of an eagle was set on the "Great Tower" in April 1317.

The origin of the name of the tower is not certain. An eagle occurs on the first seal of the town of Carnarvon, of late thirteenth century date, above the leopards of England. Otho de Grandison, constable at this time, bore eagles in his arms, and it is also to be remembered that the Honour of the Eagle was annexed to the Crown by Henry III in 1268, granted to Prince Edward, afterwards Edward I, in 1269, and remained with the Crown till 1373.

The tower was evidently much damaged in 1294, and its repair was postponed on account of the new buildings in the outer court; indeed it seems to have been left until all the other towers had been repaired. In 1343 it still had five "camina" unfinished. There are five fireplaces in the tower, of which at least three must have been completed as the walls rose, so that the reference may be to the octagonal chimney shafts rising above the wall tops.

The tower is ten-sided in plan, the walls being 15 feet thick at the ground floor, while the internal diameter at this level is 34 feet. In the top floor it is 36 feet, owing to the setting back of the wall faces. The floors and ceilings of these large rooms were carried on huge oak beams supported by struts from corbels, the modern beams which replace them giving a very good idea of their effect, though if the beam holes in the walls are to be trusted, the old beams were slightly larger than those now seen. The new floors and roof date from 1911-1914. The tower is of four stages, the lowest being a basement reached by a flight of steps from the court, and opening to the quay by a postern door on the west. A gatehouse was attached to the north side of the tower, but only its western respond exists, showing the springers of the entrance arch and passages leading from the tower to the gatehall and the portcullis chamber above. This is presumably the gatehouse mentioned in 1436, as the outer

postern of the quay next the Eagle Tower. It is described as having an upper chamber. The lower passage opens from the north jamb of the postern door in the basement of the tower, and by this means the defences of the town communicated with the castle. The basement is lighted only by a narrow window on the south, in the jamb of which is a garderobe ; on the north-east a doorway leads to the basement of the ruined building set against the north curtain.

The ground floor is entered from the court on the east, a newel stair opening from the south side of the entrance lobby, and a wall passage from the north side. The principal room, 34 feet in diameter, has a hooded fireplace on the north, and is very insufficiently lighted by a two-light window high in its north-west wall, another on the east above the doorway, and by borrowed light through a small octagonal wall chamber opening from the staircase. On the south a door opens to a wall passage leading to a pentagonal wall chamber on the right, and a garderobe on the left. A second pentagonal chamber, from which the portcullis of the western postern was worked, is reached by a passage in the west wall, and at the north-east is a large doorway leading to the ruined building along the north curtain. A wall passage branches off westward from this entry, passing through a small octagonal room, and leads to the door of the portcullis chamber over the gate already mentioned. A second passage, passing southward through a hexagonal room, connects the entrance lobby from the court with the entry.

The purposes to which these wall chambers were put were probably as follows:—The octagonal room off the stair was a guardroom, the pentagonal rooms could be used by bowmen for defence, but were probably sleeping rooms also, in spite of their smallness, while the chambers through which the passages passed would serve for sentries.

The arrangement of the chambers on the first floor is equally interesting. The principal room is entered from the east through a lobby leading from the newel stair. The fireplace, which has a flush lintel, is on the south, and the room is lighted by two-light windows on the north-west and north-east, rather more adequately than the ground floor. An octagonal chamber off the stair, immediately above the guardroom on the ground floor, is a small chapel and has a piscina ; in its west wall is a rectangular opening through which any one in the large room could see and hear what was going on in the chapel. A doorway at the south-west of the chapel opens to a small square chamber,

perhaps a vestry ; its back wall has been broken through, and it now forms part of the wall passage which runs almost completely round the tower at this level. The original access to this passage and the rooms opening from it was from the recesses containing the two-light windows ; the north-east window was at some time later altered and half of it made into a doorway, to give access to the tower from the wall walk on the north curtain. In the south jamb of this window a door opens to a pentagonal chamber like those of the first floor ; while from its north jamb a passage leads to a rectangular chamber with a fireplace, which has been called the birthplace of Edward II ; it was, as has been shown, not built at the time, and is most probably a guardroom. The passage continues westward across the second two-light window, and has low rectangular openings for light on the west-north-west and west-south-west, and between them, on the west, a wall chamber of the same class as the pentagonal chambers, but of different plan. Continuing southward the passage passes an embrasure for bowmen, and ends at a garderobe in the same position as those below.

The upper part of the principal room on the first floor deserves careful examination. It will be seen that the set-off in the masonry of the walls, which occurs at each floor, and is meant to take the ends of the joists, is in this case not horizontal, but slopes up or down on the different sides of the room, and was clearly designed to take, not the joist of a floor, but the rafters of a low-pitched roof. It will also be seen that the joists of the second floor do not rest on the great strutted beam that spans the room, but on a second beam crossing it obliquely at a higher level ; and the fireplace of the second floor is built to suit this higher level. The inference is that the roof of the tower was at one time here, and not as now, one story higher. During the repairs of the tower it was discovered that a stone water channel, lined with lead, runs all round about the level of the set-off, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in from the inner face of the wall. It is carried to the garderobe shaft at the south, the lead lining having been continued some distance down the shaft, and might have been designed to take the water from the gutters of the former roof. Being now buried in the walls it has only been examined in a few places, and no traces of an inlet for rain water have been found, so that its real nature must remain uncertain. It is closed in at the top by heavy coverstones, under which the lead is dressed. Taking all this in connection with the record of 1317, in which the tower is said to be "made anew," there seems to be a case for assuming the top story to be an addition. It is very unlikely

that the whole tower should have been rebuilt at this time, and there is not the slightest evidence from the external masonry in favour of such a theory, nor do the words of the record necessarily imply anything of the sort. Indeed, if the tower be looked at from without, the whole seems to be of one design, and its proportions without the top story would be extremely ungraceful and unlike the other towers. The supposition that the tower was left unfinished before 1294, and only carried to its full height by 1317, would best suit the facts. In this connection it must be noted that the corbel course in the wall passage on the second floor is of a type which only occurs elsewhere in the castle in work done between 1315 and 1322. Finally it must be remarked that although the mouldings of the arches in the lower parts of the tower are of a character usually found in the early part of the fourteenth century, rather than in the thirteenth, yet the same moulding is found in the other towers which must belong to the first work, and the earlier date must be accepted for it, the only alternative being to suppose a complete rebuilding of all these towers, a hypothesis contradicted both by the records and the evidence of the buildings themselves.

The second floor is lighted in the same way as the first, but has additional borrowed light through a wall chamber on the north-east. Its fireplace is at the north-west, and at the south-west a door opens to a wall passage leading to a garderobe in the usual position. None of the windows on this floor is adapted for archery. There are two wall chambers, both rectangular; that on the north-east, which is reached from the staircase, but also has an opening towards the large room, several feet above its floor level, contains a wide fireplace, which has had a plastered hood carried on a wooden beam: it is far larger than could be needed for warmth, and the chamber has probably served as a small kitchen, like that in the Well Tower. The second wall chamber opens from the west side of the north-east window, and seems to be a bedroom.

The stair continues to the roof of the tower, and is carried above it in an irregular hexagonal turret; two other similiar turrets rising from the wall, top to a total height of 110 feet from the quay below. Their wall faces set out twice, once at the parapet and once at half height, giving them a very unpleasant top-heavy look from which the other turrets in the castle are free. They are, however, quite sound structurally. The battlements of the turrets and the tower not having undergone the too thorough "restoration" seen elsewhere, are the most interesting.

in the castle. One figure of an eagle remains on the coping, and other coping stones have helmeted heads rising from them. The battlements are pierced with arrow slits, and the spaces between the merlons were meant for the same purpose, and were protected by wooden shutters which hung vertically to close the openings when not in use, and could be propped up in order to allow the shooting of arrows downwards. The grooves in which the ends of the shutters rested can be seen here and there in the sides of the coping stones.

Between the Eagle and Queen's Tower the curtain is in two stages, having a wall walk at first floor level, from which steps lead to the upper wall walk. At neither end of the latter is there any communication with the towers, though at the stair-head near the Eagle Tower are traces of a doorway and a continuation of the stairs, which would have led to the roof of the Eagle Tower before the top story was added, an additional argument in favour of the view already set forth. The lower wall walk is reached from the Queen's Tower, and formerly continued round the east face of the Eagle Tower to the north curtain.

At no time can the upper walk have formed part of the continuous track along the curtains and round the towers, the garderobe in the north-west angle of the Queen's Tower blocking the way.

Traces of some building set against this curtain are to be seen, but its purpose is unknown.

The QUEEN'S TOWER is ten-sided internally, and has rooms of the same diameter as the Eagle Tower, and walls of the same thickness. In other respects, however, it is very differently planned, the wall chambers, which add so much interest to the Eagle Tower, being replaced by wall passages and embrasures, whose purpose is solely military. The Tower belongs to the first work, and having been damaged in 1294 was in course of repair in 1303-4, £22 being spent on carpentry work in it at that time. Its name was then *Bele Estre*. In 1343, and again in 1393, it is called the Banner Tower, *Tour de Baner* or *de la Banere*. In 1595 it is apparently the Pinnacle Tower, and in 1620 the Pike Tower. In 1393 a stone pillar was built to strengthen it, as its condition, or rather that of its roof, was dangerous. This was built in the middle of the tower and rose to the second floor, at which level arches sprang from it to the side walls; its foundations and the springers of the arches still remain. The tower was roofed and floored in the nineteenth century, but the timbers being weak and decayed were removed, and the present roof and floor set up in 1912-14.

The tower is of three floors, having the newel stair and the garderobes at the north-west, and a chapel with two chambers beneath it on the north-east, the north front being thus brought out to a square face. The two large upper rooms in the tower receive practically all their light from the north, being masked by the wall passages on the other sides. The ground floor room is entered from the north through a lobby from which a garde-robe passage branches off westward. It is lighted by two two-light windows on the north, having an inner plane of tracery to adapt them to the shape of the room, and high in the south wall is an opening lighted through the wall passage at first floor level. There is a lintelled fireplace on the east, and embrasures with arrow slits on the south-east, south, and south-west. On the north-east is a door to a rectangular chamber, lighted from the north and having a small window opening to a large room near the fireplace. High up in its south wall is a doorway opening to the lower wall passage.

The first floor room is lighted by a two-light and a single-light window on the north, and by a narrow slit, widely splayed within, from the wall passage on the south-east. There is a fine hooded fireplace at the east, and a door on the north-east to a chamber like that on the ground floor, but having no window towards the large room. The wall passage at this level has only two embrasures, but there are in addition three narrow unsplayed openings for light, and at the west a fourth, very slightly splayed, near the door of the garderobe, and probably meant to give more light at this point for that reason. It is a later insertion, and it is probable that a partition, or perhaps a curtain, crossed the passage here, for the sake of privacy.

The second floor is better lighted than the others, having three two-light windows with window seats on the north, and two borrowed lights on the south. The north-east room is here a chapel with a two-light east window, a piscina and holy-water niche, and a small window from the large room, splayed westward and commanding a view of the position of the altar. The large room has a hooded fireplace at the west, but its most interesting features are the springing stones of cross arches which remain in its walls and must have been designed to carry the roof timbers, like the arch in the Well Tower. They sprang from the stone pier already mentioned, built in 1393. The stone for this work is described as having been brought from Chester, and the springers of the arches are of a red sandstone which occurs nowhere near Carnarvon, but is normal to the

Chester district. Similar stone is only found elsewhere in the castle in a fireplace in the Well Tower, built about 1343, and in part of the Queen's Gate, which is probably of the same date. The arches and pier have long since disappeared, and the present arrangement of the roof, with the corbels carrying the wall plates, is perhaps of sixteenth century origin. The wall passage has four embrasures and two narrow openings for light, one of the latter being at a particularly awkward flight of steps on the east.

The stair turret rising above the roof is larger though not taller than any other in the castle, and at half height contains an irregular hexagonal chamber, lighted by six narrow loops; a narrow flight of thirteen steps continues to the top of the turret, and in a lintel stone spanning these steps is a round hole to take the end of a flagstaff, a suggestive feature when it is remembered that in the fourteenth century the tower was called the Banner Tower.

The curtain between the Queen's and Chamberlain Towers has two wall passages, the lower opening towards the Great Hall, as already described, and a wall walk above.

The CHAMBERLAIN TOWER belongs to the first work and is octagonal in plan, with an internal diameter of 22 feet and walls 13 feet thick. The ground floor room has embrasures on the south-east and south-west and is entered from the north through a lobby leading westward towards the Great Hall and eastward to the newel stair which opens to the outer court north-eastward, and continues up to the top of the tower. A two-light window above the door is the principal source of light for this room, and at the north-east is a rectangular chamber with a two-light east window and an east doorway to the court. It is approached from the room by a door at the west and in its south-west angle a narrow splayed opening gives a view of one room from the other. The wall passage in the curtain on the west communicates with this floor through the lobby. The difficulty of getting enough light for the rooms, which is a constant problem at Carnarvon, is particularly acute in this tower, for in addition to the wall passages which mask the south side, a good half of the north side was covered by the range which divided the inner from the outer court.

On the first floor there is a chapel at the north-east, with a two-light east window. It opens from the principal room, in which part of a holy water stone remains to the east of the door. This room gets its light from a window over the door,

and also through the chapel by two openings set one above the other ; the lower of the two, which would give a view of the altar from the room, was probably closed by a shutter as a rule, while the upper was kept open for light. Above the chapel is a room lighted from the north, but having no doorway or other apparent means of access. As on the ground floor, a lobby on the north connects the wall passage to the principal room ; the passage is carried round the south side of the tower, and at the east divides, one branch going up to the upper wall passage in the curtain to the east, the other going down to the wall passage on the lower level. The second floor has a large north window and three borrowed lights on the south ; its lintelled fireplace is partly modern, as is a good deal of the masonry in the east wall.

The curtain between the Chamberlain and Black Towers has two wall passages and a wall walk ; the upper wall passage is now open to the sky, but was originally covered in like the lower. The west half of the curtain belongs to the first date and the east to the second, the break in the line showing the junction of the two. This point also marks the line of the ditch surrounding the earthen motte, and the foundations are deeper here than elsewhere, having to be carried down through the made soil with which the ditch is filled. The foundations exposed here belong to a scheme for enclosing the west side of the motte with a wall, a project abandoned before the work of 1296-1300 was completed. The east half of the curtain is out of line with the west, because the work of which it forms part was begun from the north-east and carried south and west following the line of the rock, without reference to that of the other curtain. Foundations of a later building set against the wall are to be here ; its use is uncertain.

The **BLACK TOWER** belongs to the second work, 1296-1300, and is ten-sided internally, with a diameter of 18 feet, and walls 14 feet thick. The old name of this tower is uncertain ; a "Blaketour" is mentioned in 1343, but the name does not occur again. Perhaps the Mynet Tower of 1595, and the Merioneth Tower of 1620, are to be identified with the present Black Tower. It is of two stories and, like the Chamberlain Tower, has a chapel on the north. This seems to have been an addition during building, as although the rooms are planned to connect with it, its foundations are at a higher level than those of the tower. To build it part of the motte must have been cut away, and the level of the ground at the time is shown by an

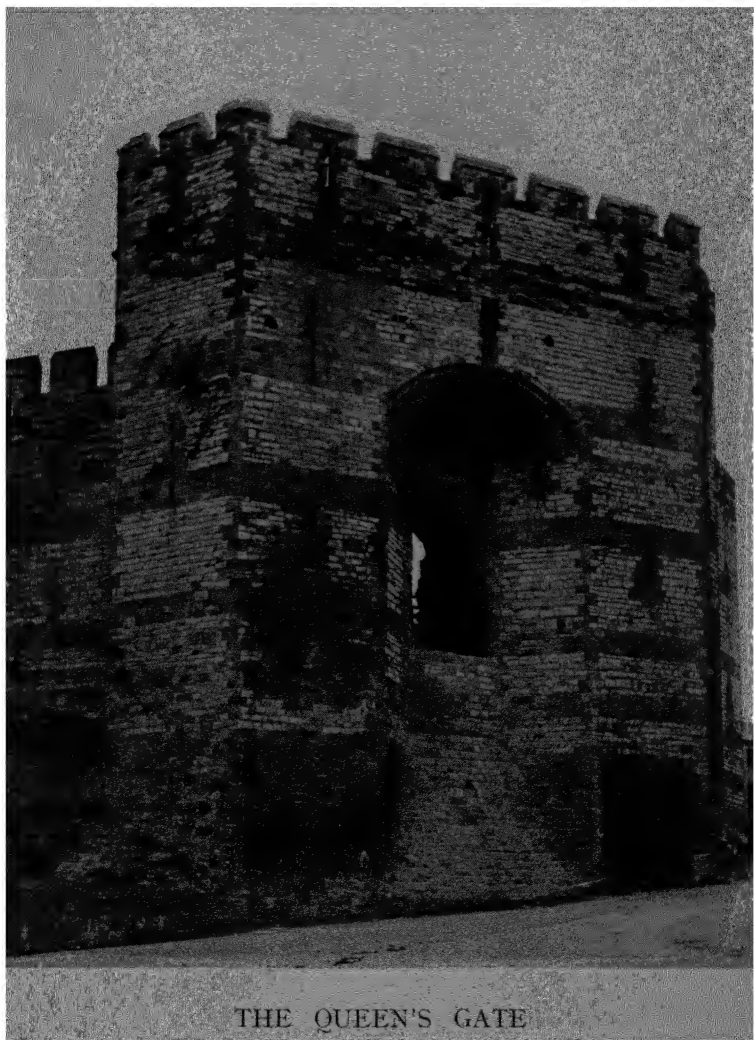
opening in its north wall, which is the mouth of a channel for surface water, running under the floor of the ground story of the chapel to a shaft, partly rock cut, which discharges southward at the base of the tower into the river. The stair is at the north-west. The ground floor of the tower has three embrasures southward, but no fireplace, and is only lighted indirectly on the north side. The first floor room is lighted principally through a tall traceried opening in the south wall of the chapel, but there are two small borrowed lights on the south. The fireplace was originally hooded, but has been altered to a plain lintelled opening. The chapel is entered through a lobby at the west, and has a west doorway, a single light at the east, and a two-light window on the north; it is irregular on plan, and wider at the east than the west. The room beneath it is of like plan, but has an arch of the full width carrying the west wall of the chapel. It was probably not a chapel itself, but its use is uncertain. It will be noted that there is no direct entrance to the Black Tower from the court; the approach is by a door in the lower wall passage just to the east of the Chamberlain Tower. In the outer wall of the upper passage there is a lintelled opening in the angle between the tower and the curtain, an insertion which has destroyed one side of a lighting-slit, and apparently caused the blocking and partial destruction of an opening in the inner wall, originally meant to give light to the principal room.

In the curtain between the Black Tower and the Queen's Gate is a small tower or turret of great interest opening to the wall passages. Its lower stage has three embrasures, and is roofed with a plain groined vault with a triangular keystone. The upper stage is a large water cistern, octagonal in plan, and puddled with clay at the bottom, over the stone vault. On the east is a channel for emptying it, running across an arrow slit in the curtain and discharging into a garderobe shaft in the Queen's Gate. This is closed by a lead flap, hinged to a carefully rebated stone socket, in the bottom of the cistern, and in the wall east of it is a vertical shaft, arranged to be blocked with a plug, which opens to the channel, and must have served as an overflow, to regulate the depth of water in the cistern. Rain water from the towers and curtains was presumably the source of supply.

The QUEEN'S GATE dates from 1295-1300, but was never finished. It is called in 1343 the gate towards the Prince's Garden, and may be the "unfinished" tower of 1595, and Turmoyl Tower

of 1620. In 1769 it was known as the Green Gate Tower. It has a wide gateway flanked by two towers which are irregular hexagons internally; it was evidently intended that there should be buildings flanking a westward continuation of the gateway passage, but of these nothing exists but the jamb of an archway, grooved for a portcullis, at the south-west. The scheme also contemplated a small court between the gate and the North-east Tower. The gate was defended on the east by a deep ditch on the site of which a road now runs down to the slate quays; the eastern bank has been cut away, but the original width may be estimated from the pivot holes and chase for the drawbridge, which are still to be seen. Where this ditch opened south-west to the river was the Prince's Garden, and at Harlech there was a garden in a precisely similar position. A wide segmental arch of four order spans the interval between the towers, having behind it holes through which missiles could be thrown, and behind the line of the drawbridge is a portcullis groove. The outer half of the gateway passage is occupied by a pit into which the counterpoise of the drawbridge worked, and in the back or west side of the pit is a deep horizontal socket running westwards, which has contained a beam working on rollers, intended to steady the counterpoise end of the drawbridge when the drawbridge was down. The inner part of the gatehouse passage is unfinished, but was to have been defended by "murder holes" in its vault, like that of the King's Gate. On the first floor a single large room extended over the gateway passage and the area of both flanking towers, like the "new hall" over the King's Gate. The upper wall walk opened to this room and thence continued along the curtain northwards; the lower walk, running round the towers, was to have been carried through the chamber over the west end of the gate passage. Externally the Queen's Gate appears as a broad rectangular tower with three tiers of arrow slits; the sides of the gateway opening are splayed outwards, following the sides of the flanking towers, and the lower part of the opening is similarly splayed out to the line of the east face. The great height of the gateway above the ground outside, and the deep shadows under the arches spanning the opening between the towers, are extremely impressive, a magnificent effect being obtained by the simplest means. The sham arrow slits in the base of the gate, where the masonry is only a casing to the rock, are out of keeping with the rest.

Against the curtain between the gate and the North-east Tower is set a slender half-octagonal turret, now called the Watch Tower; it has a small chamber entered through the



THE QUEEN'S GATE

curtain at the ground level, and from the wall walk on the top of the curtain a door opens to a stair which runs up in the northern half of the turret to the battlements, the southern half of the turret being solid. The turret top is arranged as a look-out platform, having had a pentise roof over its western half, from which three wide openings in the parapet, and another in the west wall, are commanded. In the battlements here and on the wall walk below may be seen specimens of the grooves in which hung the shutters for the protection of bowmen.

The NORTH-EAST TOWER, dating from 1295-1300, is octagonal in plan and of two stories. The wall walk here, as in all the northern towers, runs through the tower instead of being carried in a passage round its walls. The old name of this tower is not known, but it may be the Greenfield Tower of 1620, and perhaps the Watch Tower of 1595. The ground floor is entered from the court on the west, and has a lintelled fireplace on the south, and is lighted by a two-light window above the door and another on the north. There is a garderobe chamber in the east wall. The stair to the first floor rises in the thickness of the wall from the north side of the entrance lobby, and leads to the north door of the first floor room; it also communicates with a newel stair rising to the top of the turret. At the first floor level there are wall passages almost all round the tower, but blocked in two places; one on the west side is designed to give access to the first floor rooms of the range of buildings between this tower and the Granary Tower; it continues southward across the two-light window lighting the ground floor room, and then eastward, stopping in a narrow chamber which was probably a garderobe. A second passage runs round the east side of the tower, ending at the north-east against the masonry of one side of a double arrow slit. The first floor room has its fireplace on the south and is lighted from the north by a two-light window. In the west wall is a curious oblique slit commanding the entrance to the inner court from the King's Gateway; a second slit at the junction of the stair turret with the wall walk from the Granary Tower—commands the same point, and is doubled to command the wall walk also. The battlements of this stair turret differ from the others in having arrow slits in the parapet below the openings between the merlons.

The east wall of the town joined the castle at the point where the north curtain meets the North-east Tower, but there seems no evidence of a passage of communication, as seen at the Eagle Tower. Immediately to the west of this point is the change in

the masonry which shows where the work of 1296 began. The bands of Aberpwwll stone stop here, and the north front of the castle has its walling of limestone only. The curtain between the North-east and Granary Towers has at ground floor level five arrow slits, four of which are so arranged that three bowmen can shoot out of a single opening, while the remaining slit has one opening from the court and one from the Granary Tower. At the first floor level, where corbels and beam-holes for the floor remain, there are two two-light traceried windows with transoms and window seats, and triple arrow slits between them. A wall chamber opens from the west side of the western of these windows, and is lighted by a loop on the north, which also serves as an arrow slit from the west jamb of the window, and gives light through a narrow opening to the first floor of the Granary Tower. This small wall chamber has a fireplace in its south wall.

The GRANARY TOWER belongs to the work of 1315-1322, and is octagonal in plan, with an interior diameter at the ground floor of 20 ft., and walls 10 ft. 6 in. thick. Its ancient name is doubtful, but it may be the Well Tower of 1595, and the Bell Tower of 1620. Being built on the slope of the original ditch, it has a deep basement, like the Well Tower and the towers of the King's Gate, and its concrete foundations are levelled up on the line of the slope and appear as rectangular platforms at the ground level within the court.

The newel stair and garderobes are at the west, and the entrance is from the court on the south, wall passages running off right and left to the well and the stair respectively. The well is on the north-east, and, like that in the Well Tower, is a rectangular shaft carried down some 10 feet into the shaly rock, and always containing a good supply of excellent water. The traces of the fittings of a wheel by which the buckets were drawn up are evident, and the well chamber is lighted by a loop on the east and two arrow slits on the north. The ground floor room of the tower is very poorly lighted by two narrow openings on the north and north-west, and by borrowed light from the passage on the south-west and east. There is however, a wider opening on the south, getting light through the entrance doorway of the tower. The door of the room is at the west, and the lintelled fireplace on the south-east. The first floor has a more convenient room, entered from the south-west through a well-lit lobby to which a flight of steps leads from the newel stair. The window in the lobby has two four-centred lights of sixteenth century date, and is the only one of its kind in the castle. The

room has a two-light traceried window with transom and window seats on the north, a garderobe chamber opening from its west jamb; there is a lintelled fireplace on the south. The second floor, reached by the stair on the west, is crossed from east to west by the wall walk on the top of the curtains, and has a hooded fireplace on the south, and a two-light window with window seats on the north-east. At the south-west is a shouldered opening commanding the east side of the Chamberlain Tower. In the north wall is a triple arrow slit, opening from the west jamb of the window, from the north side of the room, and from the east end of a garderobe chamber at the north-west. This chamber has also a double arrow slit on the north-west and a single light over the garderobe shaft. The windows in the stair turret command the wall walk to the west and the entrance to the King's Gate. The curtain between the Granary Tower and the King's Gate has on the ground floor level three embrasures, two of which have smaller slits to the right and left running diagonally through the wall, their external openings being much shorter than the others. On the first floor level there is a two-light traceried window between two triple arrow slits converging to single openings.

Kansas City Public Library



Presented to the Library by

Mrs. Mary J. Bland

UNIVERSAL
LIBRARY



142 169

UNIVERSAL
LIBRARY